

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 000879

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/15/2015

TAGS: [PREL](#) [CY](#) [TU](#)

SUBJECT: TURKISH MFA ON THE ANKARA AGREEMENT EXTENSION  
PROTOCOL

REF: BRUSSELS 537

(U) Classified by Political Counselor John Kunstadter, E.O.  
12958, reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

1. (C) Summary: Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Northeastern Mediterranean Affairs Acting DDG Bilman foresees  
no problems finalizing the text of the Ankara Agreement  
extension protocol. However, he told us the Commission has  
given the Turks contradictory information on whether or not  
Turkey needs to sign the protocol before it goes to the  
European Parliament. Bilman is certain Turkey will attach a  
reservation to the protocol stating acceptance does not  
constitute Turkish recognition of the Republic of Cyprus  
(ROC) and will submit the protocol to the Turkish Parliament.  
Bilman claimed EC officials told the Turks that signing the  
protocol requires Turkey to open its ports and airports to  
ROC vessels and aircraft; Bilman says this is "completely  
unacceptable" to Turkey. End Summary.

MFA Foresees No Problems with the Text  
-----

2. (C) Bilman told us Turkey wants to begin negotiating the  
protocol text at the beginning of March. Bilman estimates  
negotiations will take a month but does not anticipate  
problems finalizing the text. His instructions, he said, are  
to finalize the text as early as possible.

Contradictory Information About When Turkey Needs to Sign  
-----

3. (C) However, Bilman told us that the European Commission  
is giving Turkey contradictory and confusing signals about  
the procedure it wants Turkey to follow after the protocol  
text is final. Bilman claims the Turks have been told both  
that they do not need to sign (for the Turks, there is no  
difference between initialing and signing) the protocol  
before it goes to the European Parliament, and that they do  
need to sign it before it is presented to the European  
Parliament.

4. (C) Bilman attributes the two different responses to  
Greek Cypriot pressure to make Turkey sign before the  
protocol goes to the European Parliament. When Turkey signs,  
Bilman is certain Turkey will add a reservation declaring  
that the protocol does not constitute Turkish recognition of  
the ROC. If the reservation is attached when the protocol  
goes to the European Parliament, approval will be more  
difficult. Bilman also said the protocol will be submitted  
to Turkey's Parliament.

5. (C) Bilman claimed the MFA asked the Commission for a  
written statement clarifying the procedure but has not  
received a response.

Opening Ports and Airports "Completely Unacceptable"  
-----

6. (C) Bilman claimed EC Enlargement DG Barbasso and EC  
Turkey/Cyprus Director Mirel told Turkish EU Ambassador  
Demiralp February 10 that signing the extension protocol  
requires Turkey to open up its ports and airports to ROC  
ships and planes. Bilman declared this "completely  
unacceptable" to Turkey.

EDELMAN